

CONGRATULATING THE COUNCIL OF COLLEGE PRESIDENTS ON THEIR BEING HONORED BY LEADERSHIP WILKES-BARRE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP EXAMPLE

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Council of Presidents from the Wyoming Valley's five institutions of higher education that includes King's College, Wilkes University, College Misericordia, Penn State University and the Luzerne County Community College.

In the mid 1980s, the presidents of these five institutions came together upon realizing that although they compete for students and funding, they are also an invaluable resource to the greater community in which they are located. That realization prompted the formation of the Council of Presidents as a vehicle to promote cooperation and sharing of common goals in a manner that maximizes the effort involved.

Since then, the Council of Presidents has been a positive force in downtown Wilkes-Barre economic development efforts, the formation of the Diamond City Partnership, the Wilkes-Barre Innovation Center, the Great Valley Technology Alliance, City Vest and the Joint Urban Studies Center, to name just a few of their accomplishments.

The Council of Presidents stands as a beacon that focuses a bright light on the positive things that can be achieved through cooperative action. Not only has their outstanding leadership and example proven to be a blueprint for success in the community arena, it has also paid vast dividends to each of the schools the presidents represent.

Cooperation in designing and developing academic course offerings has benefited from the Council of Presidents and their foresight and collective zeal to improve educational opportunities for all students attending their respective institutions.

The Council of Presidents has been especially sensitive to changing elements in society and has responded promptly and efficiently to meet those challenges. The Council of Presidents has worked cooperatively to consolidate Spanish language development to accommodate a growing Hispanic population in the region.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Council of Presidents on this notable occasion. The people of the greater Wyoming Valley are better served because of the work accomplished by this dedicated group of men and women. And their cooperative example should serve as a model for other groups, both public and private, who seek to provide a higher level of service in the performance of their duties.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE  
McMONAGLE

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor and to recognize Katherine McMonagle—a devoted educator and a life-long learner. Katherine has announced her plans to retire after thirty-four year of service.

Katherine has dedicated her professional career to thousands of students in the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale school district, located in Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District. From Carver Elementary School to North Saint Paul High School, Kathie has been an inspiring teacher to her students and a caring mentor to her colleagues.

In her first year as a teacher she taught physical education to elementary students and for the following eight years she continued in this subject area and taught middle schoolers the benefits of physical activity. As her portfolio changed to include health studies over 20 years ago, she became committed to helping students learn about the dangers of smoking and helping student smokers to quit.

In fact, she developed a program in conjunction with the Ramsey County chapter of the American Lung Association and her high school. A few years later her idea expanded to include a district-wide K-12 program committed to smoking prevention. Her idea continued to grow as the Lung Association started to move the program to other school districts.

And her ideas and commitment didn't stop there. Kathie also developed and implemented a service learning course where high school students—freshmen through seniors—work with communities to identify and address a need and develop a plan to solve the problem. The students use marketing, communication, math and other skills to come up with an implementation plan. This kind of creativity and innovation in curriculum is admired and supported not only by the students, but also by their parents, the communities, and other teachers who participate.

Kathie's skill and determination to create new and exciting opportunities for students is a consistent theme in her esteemed teaching career. She ensured that her school district would not be the only one to not provide a competitive golf team for girls. She also started up the high school's Knowledge and Quiz bowl teams and she's been their coach for the past eight years.

Over the course of Katherine's career, she has grown and developed confidence, grace, and skill in working with teenagers about personal health and development issues—which can be difficult subjects to broach with teens. Her desire to bring out the best in people and to encourage them to find new ways to lead healthy, successful, and enriching lives echoes through her work and will have a lasting impact on all those lucky enough to have been her student. She has encouraged mutual respect, honesty, and integrity in the classroom—important attributes that students have taken with them.

It is with respect and thanks that I rise to salute a teacher who will be missed, and whose legacy and ideas will continue long

after she says her goodbyes to her students and colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FEDERAL  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE G.  
THOMAS VANBEBBER

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2005*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and career of Federal District Court Judge for the District of Kansas G. Thomas VanBebber, who died on May 26th.

U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber, 73, died unexpectedly and peacefully at home in Overland Park, Kansas. He was born to Roy VanBebber and Anne Wenner VanBebber in 1931 and grew up in Troy, Kansas, where he established a law practice after his graduation from the University of Kansas and its School of Law in 1955. There, he was a member of the editorial board of the Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for 2 years, and he was the Doniphan County, Kansas, Attorney for 6 years as he established a 25-year private practice in Troy. Before he entered the judiciary, Judge VanBebber was active in politics and was Chairman of the Doniphan County Republican Central Committee. He served 2 terms in the Kansas House of Representatives before being appointed chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission, the state's utility regulatory agency, by Governor Robert Bennett. Among his memberships was tenure as a Director of the Kansas State Historical Society. In 1982, he was appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Kansas, in Topeka, and he was appointed as U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas in 1989. He sat in Kansas City, Kansas, and became Chief District Judge in April 1995, a position he held until he elected to assume Senior Judge status in December 2000. He had continued to carry an active workload of federal cases until his death.

Judge VanBebber was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Virginia Anne Henry. He leaves his wife, Alleen, at home; and his stepson, David Castellani, of Los Angeles, California. He also leaves his brother, John Gregory, and his wife, Vondell; his brother, William and his wife, Yvonne; his brother-in-law Ward Henry, and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and cousins. I have known Alleen and the Judge for many years. They are wonderful people. We all will miss Tom VanBebber.

On May 28th, the Lawrence Journal-World carried an article reviewing the notable moments of Judge VanBebber's judicial career. I include it with this statement and thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to pay tribute to a jurist who was described in the Kansas City Star as a man who "forged a legal career that defines the principles of fairness, courage and intelligence . . . He was known for his gregarious warmth outside the courtroom, but when he put on the black robe he was all business and expected litigants to have the same attitude."